GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1911
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
SALE OF SYNTHETIC DESI GHEE
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that 50 lakh Kg of poisonous synthetic Desi Ghee is being produced in Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh daily and by inscribing agmark sign on more than 110 brands, it is being sold openly in resettlement colonies and trans-Yamuna colonies of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to check it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The term synthetic is not defined in Prevention of Food Act, 1954. However, the said Act defines `Adulterated` and ` misbranded` products and provides as punishment for such food products. The food is considered as adulterated if the quality or purity of the food articles falls below the prescribed standards or its constituents are present in quantities not within the prescribed limit of variability. An article is considered misbranded if it is deceptive or a substitute or imitation or resembles in a manner likely to deceive an article of food under the name of which it is sold and is not conspicuously labeled so as to indicate its true character.

Samples of adulterated/misbranded ghee have been reported in various States/Union Territories including the states of Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. The adulteration/misbranding of ghee is on account of non compliance with the standards laid down for ghee under the Prevention of Adulterations Rules, 1955.

The provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder are implemented by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories through their enforcement staff, who draw random samples of various articles of food including ghee regularly. Appropriate action is taken against the offenders under the provisions of the prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

The Food Health Authorities for the States/UTs are advised from time to time keep a strict vigil including launching of special drive on the quality of food articles including `ghee` sold in the markets.